

AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Kindly amend claims 1, 2 and 6:

1. (Three Times Amended) An isolated DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1[, and] followed by SEQ ID NO:2.

2. (Three Times Amended) [An] The isolated DNA molecule of claim 1,[having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ. ID NO:2; wherein SEQ ID NO:1 comprises a first exon of an OCIF gene (residues 1173-1202 of SEQ ID NO:1), wherein SEQ ID NO:2 comprises a second exon of an OCIF gene (residues 130-498 of SEQ ID NO:2), a third exon of an OCIF gene (residues 4503-4694 of SEQ ID NO:2), a fourth exon of an OCIF gene (residues 6715-6939 of SEQ ID NO:2), and a fifth exon of an OCIF gene (residues 8668-9054 of SEQ ID NO:2), and] wherein said [OCIF gene] DNA molecule encodes a protein that inhibits differentiation or maturation of osteoclasts.

6. (Twice Amended) A method for producing the protein of claim 5, the method comprising:
 - 3 inserting a DNA molecule into an expression vector, the DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1[, and] followed by SEQ. ID NO:2;
 - 5 transforming a host cell with the expression vector;
 - 7 culturing the host cell such that the protein is expressed by the expression vector; and
 - 9 isolating the expressed protein,